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Europäisches
Patentamt

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Euro in
Patent Office

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Transvascular, Inc.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☒ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☐ Abstract ☐ Title ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.
- Figure:
- ☐ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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EPO Form 1507 02.93



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	US 5 724 977 A (YOCK PAUL ET AL) 10 March 1998 (1998-03-10) * column 4, line 12 - line 15 * * column 7, line 30 - line 38 * * column 5, line 45 - line 57 * * column 7, line 22 - line 23 * * figure 5 * ---	1-14, 18-22,34	A61B17/22
Y	WO 97 13463 A (TRANSVASCULAR INC) 17 April 1997 (1997-04-17) * page 50, line 22 - page 51, line 8 * * page 46, line 13 - line 18 * * page 12, line 8 - line 27 * ---	1-14, 18-22,34	
X	US 5 713 363 A (TAJIK ABDUL JAMIL ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) * column 2, line 48 - line 67 * * column 3, line 2 - line 3 * * column 3, line 18 - line 19 * * column 4, line 26 - line 56 * * column 8, line 49 - line 52 * * column 10, line 27 - line 29 * * figures 1,2,7A * ---	15,23, 25-33 35,36	
Y			
A		13,14	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A61B A61M
Y	US 5 423 773 A (JIMENEZ OSCAR) 13 June 1995 (1995-06-13) * column 5, line 48 - line 50 * ---	35,36	
A	US 4 578 061 A (LEMELSON JEROME H) 25 March 1986 (1986-03-25) * figure 6 * -----	16,17	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 3 July 2002	Examiner Compos, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-14, 18-22, 23

Tissue penetrating catheter with an imaging transducer and a marker or a known location on the catheter useable in cooperation with imaging transducer to enable the orientation of the catheter and hence the tissue penetrator to be determined and as a consequence rotate it to the appropriate target location.

2. Claims: 15-17

Tissue penetrating catheter with active imaging apparatus thus enabling the target site to be visualised.

3. Claims: 35,36

Tissue penetrating catheter with a catheter braid incorporated into a portion of the catheter body. The braid being configured to minimize the longitudinal elongation of the catheter as it is warmed from room temperature to body temperature.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 91 6238

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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03-07-2002

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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